



CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

2300 RIVER PLAZA DRIVE, SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3293 • PHONE (916) 561-5520 • FAX (916) 561-5690

June 13, 2011

Via Email:

DeltaPlanComment@deltacouncil.ca.gov

and U.S. Mail

Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Letter of Support Regarding Alternative Delta Plan

Dear Chairman Isenberg and Members of the Council:

The purpose of this letter is to express California Farm Bureau Federation's ("Farm Bureau") general support of the "Alternative Delta Plan" submitted to the Delta Stewardship Council ("Council") on Friday, June 10, 2011 by an ACWA-led Coalition of agricultural and urban and water interests ("Coalition"), of which Farm Bureau has been a member on past submissions to the Council and with whom Farm Bureau continues to work closely.

Farm Bureau shares the core concern behind the Alternative Delta Plan—namely, that there is an urgent need for an alternative to the prescriptive regulatory approach embraced in the Council's Draft Delta Plans to date.

Farm Bureau shares the Coalition's view that the Council's approach to date does not reflect a balanced approach to achieving core objectives of the Delta Reform Act of 2009. Those objectives are achieving the co-equal goals of statewide water supply reliability and the Delta ecosystem, while at the same time protecting and preserving significant values in the Delta itself, including the region's important agricultural economy.

Farm Bureau agrees that a Delta Plan that subordinates the water supply goals of the Reform Act to the ecosystem protection goals of the Act is a Plan that fails to achieve the purposes of the Act.

Farm Bureau fully endorses the list of key policy questions identified in the Coalition's June 10, 2011 letter.

Farm Bureau also strongly supports numerous aspects of the Coalition's alternative plan, including the recommendations concerning the need for investment in new water infrastructure to optimally achieve both the water supply and ecosystem objectives of the Act, the financing plan recommendations, and the recommendations on the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan among others.

At the same time, Farm Bureau believes that there is a need for parity with respect to Delta communities, Delta agriculture, and the Delta economy itself. Statewide water supply and Delta ecosystem goals must be achieved in a way that respects the rights and legitimate needs of Delta interests as well as the ecosystem and water supply goals. In addition, the Delta Plan must respect water rights and the needs of the areas of the origin.

In closing, we are hopeful that the Coalition's recent submission will indeed stimulate further debate around the key policy issues outlined in the Coalition's letter—and that the end result will be a Delta Plan that embodies a more balanced approach to achieving *each* of the three core objectives of the Reform Act.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Wenger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

PAUL J. WENGER
President

PJW:sll